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U.S. gave Bernhard top spy clearance

BERNHARD Hugo Goetz has a super-secret "Astro" security clearance from the U.S. government, Channel 4 news reported last night.

The clearance granted to the subway vigilante two years ago gives him access to classified weapons information.

Sources say Goetz worked as a contract employe for U.S. government intelligence agencies performing

sophisticated electronic calibrations involved in nuclear weapons.

Goetz is regarded as an expert in the highly specialized field.

It was not immediately known exactly what projects he worked on.

Both the CIA and Defense Dept. declined to comment on the NBC report.

To obtain an "Astro" clearance, Goetz had to be thoroughly investigated

by intelligence agencies and the FBI.

The clearances are granted if the investigation shows the applicant appears to be stable, loyal to the U.S. and unlikely to be compromised by foreign agents.

Goetz' clearance gives him access to secret technical data relating to some of the most deadly weapons known to civilization.